

This bark-louse appears first in the form of a brown scale, from which, as it increases in size, there is protruded from the female scale cylindrical white filaments of a waxy nature, in which eggs are laid, and these cotton-like filaments, as new fibres are secreted, are constantly pushed further back until there protrudes a bunch about four times as large as the scale, as shown in fig. 5, which is thickly crowded with eggs. Permeating through the nest is a quantity of powdery matter which under a high magnifying power is seen to be in the form of rings. The waxy filaments are adhesive and elastic, and can be pulled out sometimes a foot or more before entirely separating. When heat is applied these fibres melt, and their waxy nature is further demonstrated by their solubility in ether and chloroform. A single nest will seldom contain less than 500 eggs, and sometimes upwards of 2,000. The female begins to lay eggs in the latter part of May, and continues laying from five to seven weeks, until she dies from exhaustion, her entire life continuing for about thirteen months. During the laying and hatching of the eggs she secretes a quantity of a sweet liquid known as honey-dew, which attracts ants, flies and other insects, and it often happens that the young lice crawl up the legs and bodies of these visitors, by whom they are thus carried to other trees.



Fig. 5.

The newly hatched, yellowish-white lice soon distribute themselves over the branches, and attaching to the succulent portions, pierce the tender bark with their sharp beaks and subsist upon the sap. They shortly become stationary, when they gradually increase in size and finally reach maturity.

The scale of the male insect is very different from the female. It is longer in proportion to its size, and there are no waxy filaments projecting from it. When fully mature the insect escapes from its scaly covering and appears as a minute, beautiful and delicately formed two-winged fly, marked with yellowish and chestnut brown, with brilliant rose-colored wings which also reflect the colors of the rainbow. These flies do not appear until August and September, and their lives in the winged state are very short, not exceeding two or three days.

Besides the Maple and the Grape, these insects are, as already stated, also found on the Linden or Basswood, and sometimes on the Elm.